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LOWER CALIFORNIA MAGAZINE.

Number 2.

AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY JOURNAL

OF

LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND HORTICULTURE

FOR THE

RURAL HOMES OF LOWER CALIFORNIA.

JANUARY, 1890.

Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico,

(VIA SAN DIEGO, CAL.)

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The New Year.

By E. E.

As an angel of beauty and light,
Advances the Happy New Year.
And scarce is the old out of sight
In that realm where doubtless appear
All the old years, to rest with delight,
Than the new one is already here:
And sings the same song others have sung,
With a greeting and welcome the same
Understood by each nation and tongue,
So shineth his glory and fame.
And the New Year is happy we know,
His province 's to give with delight,
Nothing to crave, all Time to bestow,
Just proves him an angel of light!

California in Mid-Winter.

The meadow lark sings in the air as
The mocking bird whistles his tune;
The heart of December is fair as
The heart of a mid-day in June.
The sweet breath of thousands of flowers
Comes up from the sod at our feet;
And the fruit in the tropical bowers
Hangs dead-ripe, deliciously sweet.
The blue bay lies sparkling before us,
With sea-foam a-curl far away;
The bright sky of summer bends o'er us.
But the time is a mid-winter day.

ESTELLE THOMPSON.

Editorial Notes.

SUBSCRIBE for this magazine. One of the leading features is a serial story, by T. S. Van Dyke, entitled, "Peter Barker, 'Capitalist,'" commencing in this number. This story will be found very interesting and instructive, besides a true illustration of Southern California during "the boom." The price of our publication is very low, but as we wish to place it in the hands of all lovers of good literature *at once*, we make this most liberal offer. With every subscription received by mail, cash in advance, for one year, we will give 20 new and interesting novels, *free* as premiums.

Why do not the farmers of San Diego county try raising small fruits and berries? There is always a ready market for these articles, and in most places, rightly managed, would be profitable.

The time is not far distant when sugar beets and sorghum will be

two important productions of Southern California.

As fine wheat, corn, barley and other grain was raised in San Marcos and Escondido valleys the past season as could be produced in any part of the world, besides melons weighing from 90 to 100 lbs. and every kind of vegetable; all without any irrigation whatever.

What Southern California soil needs is more thorough cultivation as well as irrigation. A little more energy and extra work will make some of our lands bring forth good results without the water which most people think absolutely necessary.

Southern California is the best place for the working man on the globe. Here a man can work at any kind of business 365 days a year, 24 hours per day. Where else in the United States can that be done?

Subscribe for this magazine and send it to some Eastern friend. They will appreciate your present, and it may be the means of bringing emigration this way.

Prof. Ira G. Hoitt, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, sends us a circular urging all friends of the public schools to unite in encouraging children to plant trees and shrubbery on the school grounds. Certainly there are few things more desirable, and yet "spontaneous generation" will never produce it. Unless some one makes the first move, no move will be made. Nine children out of ten are good at destroying property on the school ground, but if they felt that it was there by their own labors, the case would be quite different generally. There are few children who do not naturally cling to, and protect, a thing which they claim, even though they know they do not really own it. What child will not delight to watch the growth of a tree, planted by his own hands alongside of those of his playmates, where all beholders may criticise or praise the care bestowed upon it? How fondly will memory revert to it in after years! One of the most important lessons any of us have ever learned is, that there are life-long results, for good or ill, from our every action. What an impressive object lesson "Arbor day" may be made to teach our children on this point! For the sake of improved grounds and better children, let us have it.

Prof. Geo. P. Fisher of Yale University will contribute to *The Century* during the coming year a series of papers on The Nature and Method of Revelation, in which he will touch upon a number of questions of living interest at the present time, in connection with Christianity and the Bible.

The only gang that San Diego can tolerate is the gang-plow. The others must walk the gang-plank out of here.

No.

[*California Fruit Grower.*]

San Diego county boasts of sixteen well organized horticultural societies. Has any other county half as many?

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We need a few good workers in each county, to whom a liberal salary will be paid. For full particulars, enclose stamp and address THIS OFFICE.

PETER BARKER, "CAPITALIST."

A TALE OF THE GREAT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BOOM.

BY T. S. VAN DYKE.

AUTHOR OF "THE STILL HUNTER," "SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA," "THE RIFLE, ROD AND GUN IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA."

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CHAPTER. I.

PETER BARKER'S TURNING POINT IN LIFE.

"Got any farms for sale?" asked Peter Barker, as he entered the real estate office of Maj. Dinkinbat in San Diego, on a bright day in January, 1886.

Major D., who was talking to a crowd of persons around a map of the United States, deigned a sidewise glance at him over his spectacles, and then resumed his talk.

"Now you see, gents" he said, "all the trade with China, Australia and Japan has got to come through this port; San Francisco will be left high and dry. Even India can be reached better from England through New York and San Diego than by way of the Suez Canal."

"Have you got any back country?" inquired another.

"Back country? Oceans of it," replied Major D., with an expansive sweep of his hand over the map of the whole United States. Why, even Canada and British Columbia must be tributary to this harbor."

"Well, I mean some immediate back country."

"Immediate back country? Why, certainly. Don't you see we have the whole of Arizona, New Mexico and Southern California way up here, to, to, to—" reaching his hand almost up to San Francisco, then cautiously drawing back to somewhere about the center of the San Joaquin Valley.

"I mean country close around, where you can raise something."

"*Raise* something?" said Mj. D., *raise* something? Why it don't make any difference if you can't raise a *bean* within fifty miles of San Diego. This is the only harbor south of San Francisco, my dear sir, in fact the only real harbor on the Pacific Coast; San Francisco is often too rough; besides there is no such climate in the world as this. Don't you see how folks are rushing here now from every portion of the universe? This is only the advance guard of the grandest march ever seen, sir, in the world's history; in a few years there won't be standing room around this bay."

"Well, suppose somebody wants to raise something just for fun?"

"Oh well, why of course, there is lots of back country of that kind, if you must have some."

"Where is it?"

"Why, there's—ah, ah—the Cajon. Have you been out to the Cajon? Go out to the Cajon if you don't believe there is any back country."

"Where's that?"

"Why it's—ah, by the way," he rattled to his clerk, "the mail's in; go to the postoffice; here, hold on, let me fix you a letter to take first."

"How about water?" interrupted somebody.

"Water?" said Major D., with a sigh of relief at getting clear of the other man's question. "Well, now water is just what we have got. The supply is inexhaustible, inexhaustible, sir! It's drawn, too, from nature's greatest filter—pure sand. Miles of it, sir, miles of pure sand! Our rivers here are not like your nasty Eastern rivers, running above ground and carrying all sorts of filth. They run through pure, clean sand, sir, pure as the driven snow and hundreds of feet deep. It's so pure that a man raised on ordinary Eastern water might, of course, be affect-

ed by it, just as an Illinois River mud-catfish would be if you put it into a Rocky Mountain trout brook."

"How about this flume they are talking about building to bring water from the high mountains?" asked a man whose eyes had been gradually dilating under Major D.'s talk.

"Well, now, my friend," said Major D., dropping his voice into a subdued bass and turning upon the inquirer an eye full of kindly philanthrophy, "this is California, you know; these are boom times and you must expect to hear some lies of course. I believe in at least trying to tell the truth. I was pious brought up. I have been trying to get over it because it don't pay; but somehow early education sticks. That flume they are talking about is nothing but a swindling scheme, got up by some speculators to sell out stock and make some money. They ain't got no finances and we don't need no irrigation here, anyhow. That's where we've got the advantage of the rest of the State.

"Are there any railroads leading out into the country?" asked another man.

"Eh? ha, ha, ha! Well, now, who wouldn't smile at such a simple question; why of course there are lots of them, but they are buiding them from the other end first; it pays better to build them that way because they can then haul their own material. Here you see is the Northwestern heading right this way, as fast as it can be built," said Major D. drawing his hand across the map of the United States, regardless of such trifles as mountains, rivers or canyons. "Here is the Rock Island coming right along on a more southern route. The Utah Southern is coming right down from the north and the Southern Pacific is hurrying up to keep from getting crowded out of the best terminal facilities."

"Got any farms?" inquired Peter Barker again, when he had sufficiently recovered from his amazement at all this information.

"Farms? what the deuce do you want a farm for? Why, you can double your money on these lots here, in sixty days, and then double it again in sixty days more," he said, pointing to a map of Dinkinbat's Addition to San Diego. "This tract looks down upon the finest bay on earth. God never tried to make but one other such Bay as this; and he made such a botch of that, that He has been trying ever since to wipe it out with a big volcano called Vesuvius; he never made another such climate as this, neither; He knew better than to try."

"Hurry up now, gents, there is only a few more lots left; only about half a block, and that won't last long. I want to close this out to-day," continued Major D. "Here's the line of the railroad; here's the line of the water pipe from the city works; here's the site for a college on the next tract; the finest university in the United States."

"Is it started yet?" inquired some one.

"Started? Why, man, if it was under way you couldn't get these lots for $500 apiece. This ain't no common college, mind you; this is a university."

"Is it sectarian or non-sectarian?" inquired somebody.

"No, it ain't none of them things—its a Unitarian, I believe, but it don't make any difference; anything that looks down on this bay is a snap, college or no college."

Peter Barker began to get restless. He had been something of a trader in a small way for several years, buying a few hogs, cattle, etc., but had never bought any real estate except some farming land adjoining the Wisconsin farm which he had sold before coming to California. There was something about this so entirely new, so surprising and so attractive, that he felt an almost irresistible impulse to buy that remaining half block. He had been over it the day before in his morning walk. Yesterday he would have laughed at the idea of buying a town lot, for he had come here to buy a farm and escape the cold of Wisconsin winters. But some new, internal voice kept saying to him, "Buy it, Peter, it will be the turning point of your life. You have been wasting your existence trifling with small things; real estate is your forte. You are a natural trader, but for the first

time in your life have found your proper field of operations."

Perspiration started upon his brow as he made up his mind to buy the half block. But his tongue failed him as he started to say so. His native caution came quickly to the rescue; and instead of saying he would take it he said "I will go and look at it."

"Certainly, certainly," said Major D., looking at him over his spectacles, and surveying him from head to foot. "Jim, take this gentleman up and show him the property," he said to his clerk. In a moment more Barker was whirling away in a buggy up to Florence Heights.

The rains had come and the time of singing of birds, and far and near the earth was in a glow of green, from the distant promontory of Point Loma, the western barrier of the harbor, upon whose top and sides the alfileria and clovers were springing, to the tablelands of the Tia Juana, fifteen miles away, in the south, where, on the slopes leading to San Diego Bay, the wild oats were brightening along the ground, undulating in a thousand different shades of green under the soft sunlight that streamed from the clear sky. Barker looked not at the city below, from which the sound of the saw and hammer came in every direction, nor yet upon the snug little town of National City, four miles up the bay, where dozens of houses not yet ready for the paint were glimmering with all the freshness of new lumber. What attracted his attention most was the miles and miles of slope that in every direction rolled towards the bay with just the right descent for perfect drainage and unobstructed view, yet wide enough for a vast city. The bright sheen of the bay stretched miles away on every hand unbroken save by the dark hulls of the shipping or the splash of the fish-hawk or pelican. Coronado Beach, then untenanted except by the coyote, the hare and the quail, with its green chapparal, and thousands of springing flowers, formed the outer guard of the harbor, and beyond it lay the great ocean, with its broad, shining face, as smooth and unruffled as the the bay, except where a few lazy lines of foam, curling close in shore, were trying to make themselves believe they were part of an ocean. Miles away upon its glassy face rose the dark outlines of the Coronado Islands, changing into fantastic forms under the mirage formed by the smooth surface of the sea. In the south rose in rank upon rank the mountains of Mexico, hazily blue with distance, and around on the east, chain upon chain of pine-fringed mountains, running far away into the north, where the great snowy peak of San Bernardino rose above all like a white cloud in the blue sky. Barker went back to Major D.'s office with strange sensations. Visions of future wealth, strong enough to make him buy, played through his breast; yet he trembled at his own audacity in even thinking of such a rash act—as to hazard any of his little competency in town lot speculation, especially in a city whose future was not yet assured. His knees trembled as he entered the office, and his voice trembled as he began to drive a bargain for the last remaining block (as Major D. said it was); and, though he finally drove a bargain just as he wanted it, his hand trembled and the perspiration started again on his brow as he made out a check for the deposit to bind the bargain, pending the investigation of title.

The block was in truth fine property, and would sell readily to-day, after two years of decline, for ten times what Barker paid for it, but at that time it seemed to a conservative man such as he had always been, such a wild operation that he hardly dared to go home and face his wife. He dodged all her questions about finding a farm, and went to sleep with some misgivings lest he might dream in the night and let out the secret.

(To be Continued.)

The Lady Took Her Time.

The following quaint epitaph on husband and wife—the husband having died first—is to be seen in one of the Parisian cemeteries: "I am anxiously awaiting you—A. D. 1827." "Here I am.—A. D. 1867." The good lady had taken her time about it.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN.

The Garden of Eden.

BY C. R. ORCUTT.

I have recently visited the Garden of Eden to see how they achieved the remarkable horticultural results usually credited to that favorite resort of Adam. Upon crossing the magic 'circle of Eve' I passed beyond the sound of the coyote's voice. No disturbing influence reached me from the busy world. The music of the wind through the leaves of the orange and the palm trees lulled me into restful sleep as I reclined under the blue canopy of heaven.

Within this charmed circle the stranger will find no corner lots—for the town is laid off in graceful curves and lines of beauty. The real estate agent cannot be found and the price of land and a dwelling place is past finding out. The real estate agents were interested once, but like Adam they were deceived and long since took their departure.

It is needless to state that the Garden of Eden is situated in San Diego county, and that prominent San Diegans once hoped to see its former beauty and luxuriance of vegetation restored. Like the city of Babylon, the clear running waters from the snow-clad mountains were first lost to the garden, and it became a scene of desolation. But the water has again been turned upon the fertile land, the orange (possibly the descendant of the golden 'apple' that lured Adam and Eve to their fate) again blossoms amid the desert. It may be a question of but a few years before the artist's ideal of the old-time Garden of Eden will be reproduced in this secluded spot—surrounded by Gustave Dore's ideal desert, into which Adam and Eve were turned by the Angel of the Lord.

At the time of my visit, early in November, the rains had brought forth the first installment of lovely flowers in great variety—a variety that Eve must have taken pleasure in naming, if Adam gave her that privelege, as he is said to have done. And the stranger—whether a botanist or not—will find even the WEEDS to be most desirable acquaintances, whose hospitality is not to be slighted.

The garden of Eden is located in Palm Valley, San Diego county, in the Colorado Desert region a few miles from the Southern Pacific Railroad. The soil is evidently rich and deep, watered by means of a flume that brings water about a mile distant from the Andreas Canyon. It is well sheltered from the winds by the surrounding hills, the grim old San Jacinto peak rising in extremely perpendicular cliffs on the west to a height of 9000 feet. In these rugged canyons are bits of scenery said to rival the famous Yosemite in grandeur: gorges showing the terrific forces of nature, abrupt perpendicular walls rising over 3,000 feet above the beholder, almost dwarfing the giant palms that have stood like sentinels for centuries.

Probably no place is more favorable for consumptives than this, at first glance, seemingly unattractive region. The region is about 500 feet above the sea. At Banning a few miles away, at an altitude of 2,300 feet, on the eastern slope of the San Gorgonio Pass, between the San Bernardino and San Jacinto ranges of mountains, Dr. King gives the following remarkable statistics regarding 200 cases of consumptives who visited that place. Of these 200 cases taken from his record books, many of whom were in the last stages of the disease on arrival, he reports seventy-eight to have been cured, forty-nine as having improved, eight who remained without apparent change in their condition and only fifty-nine died—a number of these having died within a month after their arrival. Many of those reported as having improved will ultimately recover their health entirely, and only 32½ per cent were unsuccessful in their quest of health.

Leaving the broad avenue called the 'circle of Eve,' in the garden of Eden, and following up the wash in the hills a couple miles away, I entered the beautiful Palm Canyon, where groves of hundreds of California fan palms rise in their magnificence to a height variously estimated at from sixty to over 100 feet.

Near the mouth of the canyon two streams of water from nearly opposite directions meet and mingle in harmonious music. The one nearest the heart of San Jacinto mountain flows in a clear, cool, clean refreshing stream, wholesome in taste, dancing and sparkling over the moss-green rocks by banks of brilliant colored flowers. The song of birds was heard among the trees. The snail humbly pursued his way in the shining pools and little frogs made merry in the waterfalls. The rocky lining of the stream were covered with purifying mantles of green and luxuriant mosses and delicate ferns clustered in the crevices of rocks along the banks.

Let us return to the banks of the opposite stream. No glowing banks of flowers will here meet the view. No algæ lines the pools as food for the modest snail. The few pale frogs find life too serious for idle play, and rare is the song of bird. The water lacks the clearness of purity; a yellowish sediment accumulates on the stones and a thin, white crust embraces the rocks, instead of bright green mosses. Why this lack of life—both animal and vegetable—that is all too apparent? Dip up a cup of wa-

ter and put it to your lips. Sweet! Sweet-water—fatally sweet—the deadly alkali! Only the rustling of the palm leaves over your head to break the stillness. A solitary coyote hastens to leave the cursed place, and climbs the steep walls of the canyon, seeking to renew companionship with his fellows and seclusion from man's invasion. A flock of quail cluster around a tiny spring of pure water after a luxurious repast on the small, black palm fruit, then silence resumes its sway.

Not everywhere is death and silence supreme in this wilderness as occasional glimpses will testify. But how many weary travelers have left their bones to be picked by the desert wolf, and later to bleach in the torrid sun, on account of these treacherous alkali streams and springs, only the drifting sands can tell. The native palm tree seems to thrive best where the water is most strongly impregnated with alkali, and the fruitful date may ultimately reclaim and bring this land to pay tribute to man.

Many a naturalist amid the paths of nature has been the spectator and historian of some sylvan tragedy. Many a lonely rider in early days has paused beside a tree where justice has overtaken some border outlaw and left him swinging in the breeze. Rumors of horse thieves, bold desperadoes and mysterious disappearances of travelers had reached me before entering the peaceful Garden of Eden, but I was unprepared for the gruesome sight that met my eye in a turning in this Palm Canyon.

Passing around a huge boulder the tall palm tree stood before me, a dark mass gently swaying back and forth in breeze—once warm with life and health, happy in the possession of home and friends—now dead and shrunken almost beyond recognition. What was his crime? Who were his self-appointed executioners? Did he desert his trusting companions in their hour of need? Or, did he lead them astray with visions of a prolific land? Is his cruel fate known to the absent ones once loved—perhaps too well? Vainly shall we ask these questions, which must forever remain unanswered.

Fully fifty feet from the ground, I judged, was this sylvan resident suspended from a low-hanging cluster of the fruit of the palm—a seemingly innocent bird that in some manner had alienated his companions and been sentenced to death by his feathered judge, or judges, who carried the sentence into instant execution. One wing was tied, to prevent his fluttering, in a deliberate manner. A thread from the palm leaf served for the hangman's rope, which secured him firmly by the neck to the cluster of fruit—of which he had perhaps been guilty of partaking. As a final act of mercy—or malice—his skull had been broken, exposing the brains.

It could not have been suicide or accidental death. Others than himself must have assisted in the work. But, whether guilty or innocent, his body will hereafter rest in state in a collector's cabinet and his name go down to fame, while the names of his enemies will forever remain in oblivion. Shall we say, Requiescat in pace.

Rule for Tree Planters.

Those desiring to tell the number of trees or plants, set at regular distances apart, required to plant an acre of ground, will find the following rule and table a convenience. Multiply the distance in feet between the the rows by the distance the plants are apart, in the rows, and the product will be the number of square feet for each plant or hill; which, divided into the number of feet in an acre (43,560), will give the number of plants or trees to the acre.

Distance Apart	No. to Acre
3 inch by 3 inch	696,960
4 inch by 4 inch	392,040
6 inch by 6 inch	174,240
9 inch by 9 inch	77,440
1 foot by 1 foot	43,560
1½ feet by 1½ feet	19,360
2 feet by 1 foot	21,780
2 feet by 2 feet	10,890
2½ feet by 2½	6,960
3 feet by 1 foot	14,520
3 feet by 2 feet	7,260
3 feet by 3 feet	4,840
3½ feet by 3½ feet	3,555
4 feet by 1 foot	10,890
4 feet by 2 feet	5,445
4 feet by 3 feet	3,630
4 feet by 4 feet	2,722
4½ feet by 4½ feet	2,151
5 feet by 1 foot	8,712
5 feet by 2 feet	4,356
5 feet by 3 feet	2,904
5 feet by 4 feet	2,178
5 feet by 5 feet	1,742
5½ feet by 5½ feet	1,417
6 feet by 6 feet	1,210
6½ feet by 6½ feet	1021
7 feet by 7 feet	881
8 feet by 8 feet	680
9 feet by 9 feet	537
10 feet by 10 feet	435
11 feet by 11 feet	360
12 feet by 12 feet	302
13 feet by 13 feet	257
14 feet by 14 feet	222
15 feet by 15 feet	193
16 feet by 16 feet	170
16½ feet by 16½ feet	160
17 feet by 17 feet	150
18 feet by 18 feet	134
19 feet by 19 feet	120
20 feet by 20 feet	108
25 feet by 25 feet	69
30 feet by 30 feet	48
33 feet by 33 feet	40
40 feet by 40 feet	27
50 feet by 50 feet	17
60 feet by 60 feet	12
66 feet by 66 feet	10

Planting Cane.

The best way to plant cane is with a wheat drill. Cane and wheat grains are about the same size and ought to be planted about the same depth and in the same way. The theory seems plausible. Practice confirms it. With this theory before me, I took to using the wheat drill, stopping all the drill holes except two which were the right distance apart to give the proper space between the rows. This used about ten pounds of cane seed to the acre, while two pounds is enough. Hence I had my cane too thick—just what I wanted. As soon as the sprouts peeped through the earth, I harrowed with a straight-tooth harrow across the rows, filling up the furrows left by the drill, thus giving a greater depth of earth, which is what it needs. I repeated the harrowing the same way about once a week until the cane was sufficiently thinned by the harrow. I then plowed very close to the row, sinking long bull-tongues far beneath the roots. Each subsequent plowing was further from the rows. I laid it by with bar share.

This method has the following advantages:

1. The cane can be planted with les labor. 2. It is quicker. 3. It secures a good stand. 4. It saves hand thinning and hoeing, and saves time. 5. It secures a larger yield than if planted in hills. By this method a crop of cane can be raised with less time, money and labor than a crop of corn. I have tried it many years and know.—W. L. ANDERSON *in San Diego County Reporter.*

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POMONA, Cal., Jan. 6.—The Pomona Fruit Canning Company to-day closed a contract for delivery, to a syndicate of Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Louis and Louisville people, of 625,000 quart cans of pears, apricots, peaches, nectarines and plums, annually for four years from January 1, 1890. This is said to be the largest contract of the kind ever made in Southern California, and will necessitate the enlargement of the cannery to double its present capacity.

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Nearly one hundred Eminent Persons are now engaged in preparing valuable and important contributions to *The Youth's Companion* for 1890.

Mr. Gladstone is getting together his reminiscences of Motley, the Historian; Justin McCarthy is writing all his personal recollections of great Prime Ministers; Sir Morell Mackenzie is thinking of what he shall say to the *Companion* readers on the training of their voices in youth; Captain Kennedy is recalling the exciting episodes of his five hundred different trips across the Atlantic, and making notes for his articles; P. T. Barnum is preparing the account of how he secured his White Elephant; General Wolseley is arranging to tell the boys how they can endure hardships; Carrol D. Wright is securing statistics about the boy and girl laborers of America, what they do and what they earn; Hon. James G. Blaine is writing a paper for our young politicians; popular authors are at work on serial stories; the Presidents of three leading American colleges will give advice to boys on their future; Tyndall and Shaler are to talk about the wonders of nature; Marion Harland promises to entertain the girls, while Lieutenant Schwatka will take the boys in imagination to the loneliest place in the United States.

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The Little Red Ant.

BY C. V. RILEY.

The 'red ant,' (*monomorium pharaonis*), as this insect is almost universally called, is one of the household pests which we seem to owe to the older civilization of Europe,and,like other domestic pests, it has become almost cosmopolitan. It has been generally considered of North American origin, and as one of the few American species which has become wide-spread in Europe. In the larger cities of Europe it is as much of a pest to-day as it is in this country. It probably received the scientific name of "Pharaoh's ant" on account of a defective knowledge of Scripture on the part of its describer, who doubtless imagined that ants formed one of the plagues of Egypt in the time of Pharaoh, whereas the only entomological plagues mentioned were lice, flies and locusts.

Ordinarily in households this insect is not a nuisance from the actual loss it causes by consuming food products,but from its inordinate faculty of *getting into things*. It is attracted by almost everything in the house, from sugar to shoe polish,and from bath sponges to dead cockroaches. It seems to breed with enormous fecundity, and the incidental killing off of a thousand or so has little effect on the apparent number. A house badly infested with these creatures is almost uninhabitable. They form their nests in almost any secluded spot, between the walls or under the floors or behind the baseboards or among the trash in some old box or trunk, or in the lawn or garden walk just outside the door. In each of these nests several females will be found, each laying her hundreds of eggs and attended by a retinue of workers caring for the larvæ and starting out from dawn till dawn on foraging expeditions in long single files like indians on the warpath.

Our first recommendation, in the matter of remedies, is to find the point from which they all come. They may have built the nest in some accessible spot,in which case a little kerosene will end a large part, if not all, of the trouble. If the nest is in the wall or under the floor,and taking up a board will not bring it within reach, find the nearest accessible point, and devote your energies to killing the ants off as they appear. Where the nests are outside, nothing is easier than to find them and to destroy the inhabitants with kerosene or bisulphide of carbon. The nests are almost always in the immediate vicinity of the house. The ants are peculiarly susceptible to the action of pyrethrum in any form, be it Persian or Dalmatian powder or buhach, and a free and persistent use of this powder will accomplish much.

A great number of remedies have been proposed in the household columns of various journals,but nearly all depend upon a mixture of some sort for trapping the ants. and at the best are slow and tedious means of warfare. The best of these with which I have had any experience consists in placing small bits of sponge moistened with sweetened water in the spots where the ants most do congregate, collecting the sponges once a day or so, soaking them in hot water and then replacing them. Small bits of bread and poisoned molasses or small vessels of lard in which a few drops of oxalic acid have been put have also been recommended, as well as the free use of borax, so often advised for roaches. The people of the Southern States suffer more from these pests than at the North, and a Floridian of experience recommends a mixture of borax and sugar, well mixed with boiling water, and left here and there on bits of broken crockery. If any one tries this, I should be glad to learn the result.—*Insect Life.*

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Looking at the India of to-day, and comparing it with what it was before Vasco Da Gama turned his vessels thither, and with what it was when Portuguese, Dutchmen, and Frenchmen contended for it, we may say with safety that England has been a blessing to the helpless Continent. She conquered, but she also saved.—BISHOP JOHN F. HURST, in the Chatauquan for January.

An Oroville man dried the fruit from three of the common black fig trees and realized $12 per tree.

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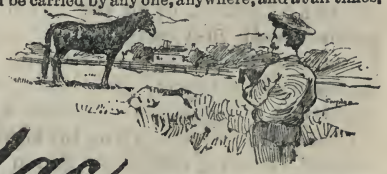

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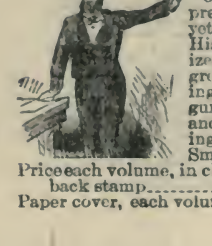

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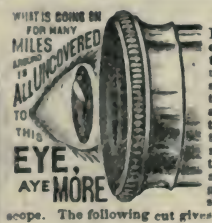

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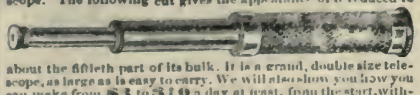

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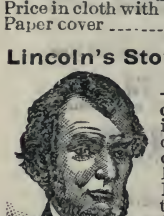

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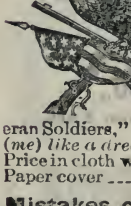

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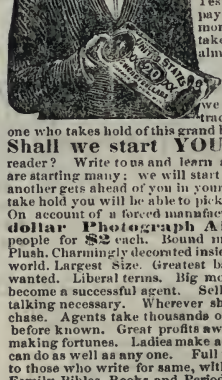

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